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1993

# The Urban Tree House



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## A Tree for All Reasons

TM 1990 USDA Forest Service



# WELCOME TO THE URBAN TREE HOUSE!

The Urban Tree House is a cooperative community-based program designed to bring an understanding of natural resource concepts and careers to urban children. The Urban Tree House is an outdoor structure where professionals from government agencies, universities, corporations and non-profit organizations conduct lessons about urban and rural natural resources.

## GOALS

- To cooperatively create, with interested partners, an environment of mutual respect for and education about urban and rural natural resources, which results in increased understanding, knowledge, and interest in these resources.
- To improve short- and long-range opportunities for creating a more culturally diverse work force within natural resource professions through involvement in co-creative natural resource education and recreation.
- To apply social science theories and methods in Urban Tree House settings and communities to improve understanding of urban-natural resource interactions and the impact of natural resource conservation education in local communities.

*The Urban*





## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

***Partners as Teachers*** At the Urban Tree House, partners provide much of the natural resource conservation education conducted on-site. Unique in this respect from most other programs, the philosophy of partners as teachers insures a well-balanced and knowledgeable educational program, provides direct contact between natural resource professionals and children, and promotes continued involvement by and interest from Urban Tree House partners.

***Repeated Exposure*** The Urban Tree House is a community-based program, focused on the dynamics and activities of its local community partner. Children return to the Urban Tree House on a regular basis, encouraging interest and promoting a more comprehensive appreciation and understanding of natural resources.

***Community Green Spaces*** Local commons areas, including urban and local parks, urban forests, schools, and other local, green spaces are cooperatively identified as Urban Tree House locations. These spaces are available and accessible at any time, and provide a sense of focus and pride for the local community.

Tree House





As a successful prototype, the Atlanta Urban Tree House has produced these guidelines for success:

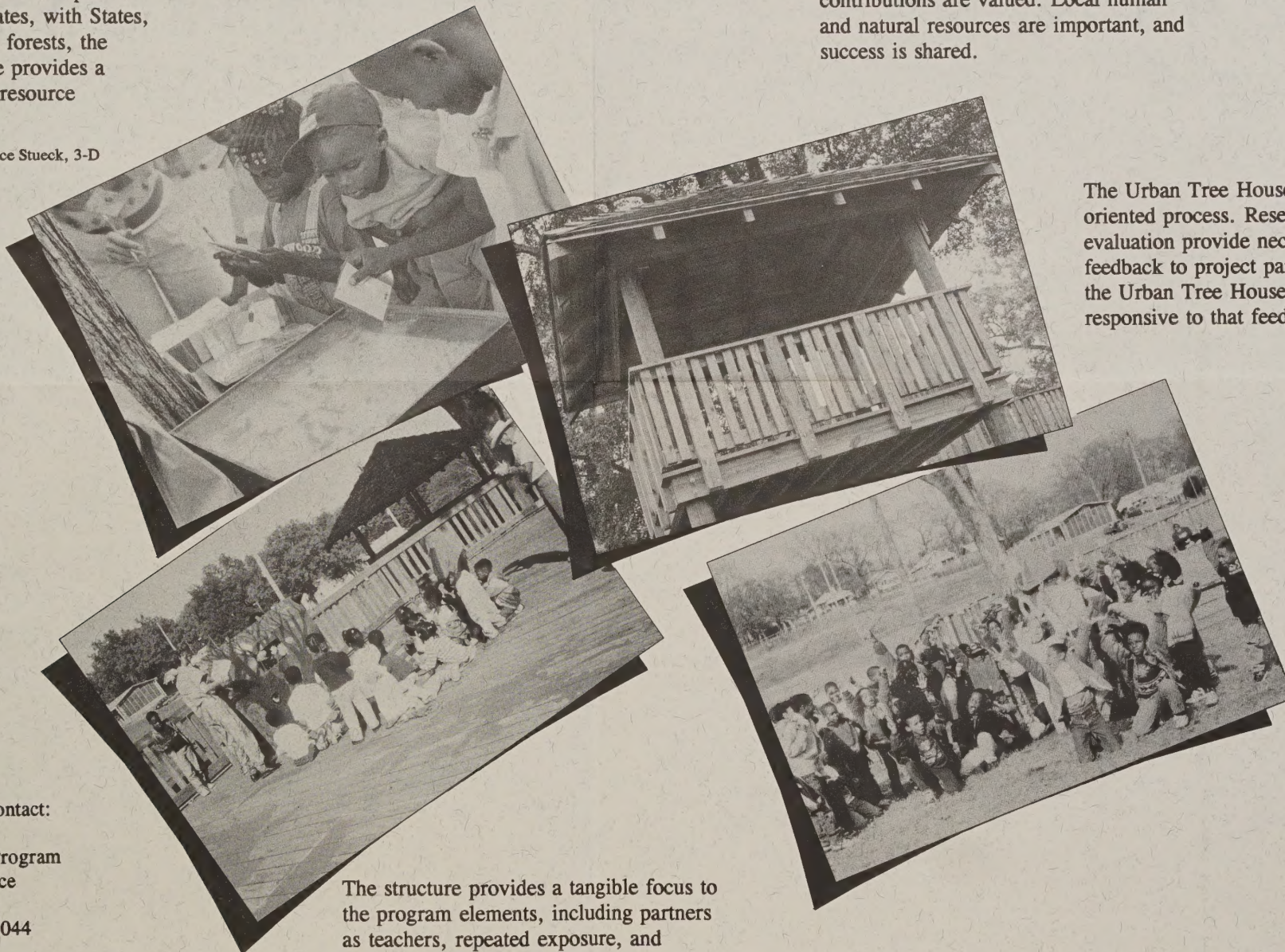
### **The Atlanta, Georgia Model\***

Successfully operational since 1991, the Atlanta Urban Tree House provides the prototype for other programs. Shaped in the form of the United States, with States, rivers, trails, and national forests, the Atlanta Urban Tree House provides a unique setting for natural resource education.

\* Structure design by Dr. Lawrence Stueck, 3-D Educational Media, Inc.

All partners are welcome and all contributions are valued. Local human and natural resources are important, and success is shared.

The Urban Tree House is a results-oriented process. Research and evaluation provide necessary feedback to project partners, and the Urban Tree House Program is responsive to that feedback.



For more information contact:

The Urban Tree House Program  
USDA Forest Service  
320 Green Street  
Athens, GA 30602-2044  
(706) 546-3203

The structure provides a tangible focus to the program elements, including partners as teachers, repeated exposure, and community green spaces.

# *The Urban Tree House*







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## THE NATIONAL URBAN TREE HOUSE PROGRAM

The success of the Atlanta Urban Tree House spurred a number of requests from communities across the United States anxious to create their own Urban Tree House programs. In response, the USDA Forest Service created the National Urban Tree House Program. A national coordinator and staff provide technical assistance, information, and training to those interested in creating an Urban Tree House in their community.

The Urban Tree House Program fosters partnerships across a wide range of public and private agencies and organizations. Through contributions both large and small, an Urban Tree House can be affordable for any community.

*Some people might think this is a little stepping stone, but to us it is a big stepping stone and it has brought something to our children about nature and a proud feeling.*

Reverend James McLain  
Kirkwood Community, Atlanta, Georgia

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